

BETHEL HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

VISION STATEMENT:

The Bethel High School Social Studies Department will be an exemplar department that is a driving force behind improving student achievement. We will work collaboratively with other departments and grade levels to consistently deliver effective instruction and practice for increasing reading comprehension and persuasive writing skills. We will make social studies relevant for our students so that they can make connections between history and the contemporary world. As citizens of a culturally diverse and increasingly interdependent world, our students will develop the ability to make informed and reasoned decisions with regard to the needs of local, regional, national and global communities. Our professional learning communities will know the needs of each child and be committed to teaching to the diverse learning styles of our students.

STRATEGIC GOALS:

1. IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

- Improve student achievement as measured by CAPT scores and data collection by individual PLC teams.
- We believe that successful students:
 - Value the importance of being educated in a democratic society
 - Ask questions, seek and analyze information, and make informed decisions
 - Respect diverse views and ideas
 - Apply understanding of historical perspectives

2. DELIVER EFFECTIVE INSTRUCTION AND PRACTICE FOR INCREASING READING COMPREHENSION AND PERSUASIVE WRITING SKILLS

- Demonstrate competency in literacy inquiry and research skills that are necessary to analyze, evaluate and present history and social studies information.
- Increase instruction and practice of reading comprehension through reading for information and dialectical notebook tasks.
- Embed essential questions and big ideas/concepts within the curriculum to serve as the frame and guide for all instruction.

3. CONNECTIONS BETWEEN HISTORY AND THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD

- Students will recognize the relevance of their studies to the past, present and future.
- Students will learn to appreciate the past, understand the present and influence the future through exposure to the multifaceted elements of diverse cultures,

4. INFORMED AND REASONED DECISIONS WITH REGARD TO THE NEEDS OF LOCAL, REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND GLOBAL COMMUNITIES

- We will provide opportunities for students to apply appropriate historical, geographic, political, economic and cultural concepts and methods in proposing and evaluating solutions to contemporary problems.
- Develop civic competence in addressing historical issues and current problems that require the use of information, skills and empathic awareness.

5. KNOW THE NEEDS OF EACH CHILD AND BE COMMITTED TO TEACHING TO THE DIVERSE LEARNING STYLES OF OUR STUDENTS

- Offer professional development opportunities that will support the implementation of best practices and instructional strategies.
- Students will be engaged in a multitude of learning experiences through the utilization of all available technologies.